

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, Congressman John W. Olver (D-1st District) announced that \$492,000 is being released from the Army Corps of Engineers at his urging to complete much needed flood wall repairs. The funding will replace a segment of concrete wall that failed in the North Branch of the Hoosic River in North Adams.

Congressman John Olver said, "I am pleased to see the Army Corps moving ahead with these crucial improvements in North Adams. Until now we've kept our fingers crossed that the flood walls wouldn't be tested by a large rainstorm. These repairs will take that very worry off the table."

"We owe a great deal of gratitude to Congressman Olver for securing these funds. The chute wall was compromised and was ripe for a collapse if we did not secure it," said North Adams' Mayor John Barret. "And collapsed wall would have cost far more to repair," he added.

Congressman Olver originally secured these funds in the Fiscal Year 2008 omnibus appropriations bill which directed the Army Corps of Engineers to set aside \$492,000 for the necessary flood wall repairs. The bill was approved by Congress December 19, 2007, and signed into law on December 26th. The Army Corps of Engineers announced the release of these funds on August 29, 2008 and construction is expected to begin shortly.

The repairs, which will consist of concrete slabs being inserted into the flood wall, should bring renewed peace of mind to North Adams residents with property near the Hoosic River. The Army Corps of Engineers expects the project to take about six weeks and should be completed before December.

The compromised wall is part of the Flood Control Project built during the late 1950s. The walls of the Flood Control Project have a history of tilting and falling, thereby exposing North Adams properties to water damage and flooding.

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